December 24, 2015

MEMORANDUM FOR:     Distribution Email

FROM:                          Christine Caruso Magee
                                     Configuration Manager, NCEP Central Operations

SUBJECT:                     Scheduled Operational Changes and Upgrades for
                                     CPC, OPC, and WPC


**Climate Prediction Center**

The following accelerated items were implemented this past week:

None

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The following will be implemented the week of December 28, 2015:

None

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The following will be implemented the week of January 4, 2016:

None

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The following RFCs are in progress:

RFC #541 - Additional variables (U and V wind components at 200 and 850mb)
are being added to the GFS data extraction on the Compute Farm. These
variables were requested by a CPC forecaster for current index monitoring.
Was to be implemented on December 22 at 0800Z.

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The following NCO RFCs to be implemented the week of December 28, 2015
may affect CPC:

RFC #1597 – Allow a CPC meteorologist to access the NOAA R&D Gaea wikis from the NCEP internal network.  To be implemented on December 28 at 1400Z.

RFC #1599 - Update the software version of the CPC-developed verification web tool hosted at vwt.ncep.noaa.gov to add support for verifying Alaska forecasts. To be implemented on December 28 at 1500Z.

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The following NCO RFCs to be implemented the week of January 4, 2016 may affect CPC:

None

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The following NCO RFCs are in progress and may affect CPC:

RFC #1579 – GPFS v4.1 (on Gyre) - Enhance the existing WCOSS - Gyre phase-1 and phase-2 storage solution by adding metadata-only GPFS NSD servers and changing the existing data-and-metadata NSD to data-only servers. Existing data will be "restriped" to separate the data and metadata.  To be implemented beginning December 17 at 1200Z and should be completed by January 11.  NCO/IDSB will send notification to users via the WCOSS-announce mailing list  should planned work be impactful to users.

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**Ocean Prediction Center**

The following accelerated items were implemented this past week:

RFC #542 – NOAA/NMFS requested that an email address be changed to accommodate new personnel in their field program for Antarctic support. Implemented on December 21 at 1330Z.

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The following will be implemented the week of December 28, 2015:

RFC #543 - The 'launch_reg_seastate.csh' script will be modified to change the size of thumbnail images for the website.  To be implemented on December 28 at 1200Z.

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RFC #544 - OPC mobile website images will have smaller filesizes to better serve low-bandwidth customers. The size of the images will also be provided next to the file timestamp.  To be implemented on January 4 at 1230Z.

RFC #545 – Update several monitoring and informational message scripts to add one recipient and remove another.  To be implemented on January 4 at 1230Z.

RFC #546 - Repair a bug in script 'remove_vgf_item.pl' that could mistakenly remove all ungrouped features.  To be implemented on January 4 at 1230Z.

RFC #547 - Add non-zero return codes to script 'convert_vgf_items.pl' when it exits with an error.  To be implemented on January 4 at 1245Z.

RFC #548 - Improve the map domains for Alaska and Atlantic on the experimental icing rates web page.  Remove the discontinued Hudson-Baffin icing rates from NMAP2.  To be implemented on January 4 at 1400Z.

RFC #550 - Provide NAWIPS data to NESDIS/STAR for use during their Jan 15 - Feb 15 2016 Winter Experiment aboard a NOAA P3.  Data will be sent directly to STAR via SCP.  To be implemented on January 5 at 1400Z.

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The following RFCs are in progress:

None

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The following NCO RFCs to be implemented the week of December 28, 2015 may affect OPC:

None
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The following NCO RFCs to be implemented the week of January 4, 2016 may affect OPC:

RFC #1608 –NWPS v1.0.2 – Initial implementation of the Nearshore Wave Prediction System into the NCEP Production Job Suite.  NWPS includes high-resolution nearshore wave guidance assimilating models such as WW3_Multi_1, ESTOFS, RTOFS, and PSURGE.  See the TIN located at

http://www.nws.noaa.gov/os/notification/tin15-01madisv1aab.htm for specifics. To be implemented on January 5 at 1200Z.

RFC #1611 – Blend v1.0.2 – Initial implementation of the National Blend of Models into the NCEP Production Job Suite.  NBM is a nationally consistent and skillful suite of calibrated forecast guidance based on a blend of both NWS and non-NWS numerical weather prediction model data and post-processed model guidance.  For specifics on the NBM, see the TIN located at http://www.nws.noaa.gov/os/notification/tin10-50naefs_aad.htm .  (Note that the TIN URL says 'naefs' but this is in fact the TIN for the NBM).  This implementation also includes minor updates to the Precipitation Analysis, NAM, SREF, and NAEFS models and larger updates to the GFS_MOS, EKDMOS, and RTMA/URMA.  For the latter three, see the TINs located at http://www.nws.noaa.gov/os/notification/tin15-52gmos_mesonetfix_aaa.htm , http://www.nws.noaa.gov/os/notification/tin15-51ekdmos_aaa.htm , and http://www.nws.noaa.gov/os/notification/tin15-53rtma_urma_aaa.htm .

All changes are to be implemented on January 6 at 1500Z.

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The following NCO RFCs are in progress and may affect OPC:

RFC #1522 – MRMS v10.5.1 - Update MRMS to version 10.5.1, to begin production of the RIDGE2 (Radar Integrated Display with Geospatial Elements version 2) products operationally.  Implementation began on November 30 at 1300Z and should be completed by December 28.

RFC #1579 – GPFS v4.1 (on Gyre) - Enhance the existing WCOSS - Gyre phase-1 and phase-2 storage solution by adding metadata-only GPFS NSD servers and changing the existing data-and-metadata NSD to data-only servers. Existing data will be "restriped" to separate the data and metadata.  To be implemented beginning December 17 at 1200Z and should be completed by January 11.  NCO/IDSB will send notification to users via the WCOSS-announce mailing list  should planned work be impactful to users.

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The following NCO RFCs, which may affect OPC, were approved  with an implementation date TBD:

RFC #1357 – RTOFS global v1.1.0 – Major upgrade of the Global RTOFS model.  See the TIN at:  http://www.nws.noaa.gov/os/notification/tin15-36global-rtofsaaa.htm for details.  This was advertised as having an October 6 implementation date but this implementation is being postponed due to a delay in

the Navy's HYCOM model upgrade.  Once the HYCOM upgrade is implemented, the Global RTOFS will be scheduled for implementation.  Notification will be given in advance so users may prepare for any changes which may affect them. This upgrade of the Global RTOFS was approved by the NCEP Director.

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## Weather Prediction Center

The following accelerated items were implemented this past week:

None

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The following will be implemented the week of December 28, 2015:

None

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The following will be implemented the week of January 4, 2016:

RFC #549 - Upgrade Operational SLR Script – The current interactive Snow to Liquid Ratio (SLR) script will be changed from using NAM Roebber SLR to using rime factor modified Roebber SLR and rime factor modified Baxter Climatology SLR. A CF cron script will compute the rime factor grids, and the current WWDSLR script will read the new data instead of the current Roeber only.  To be implemented beginning on January 4 at 1600Z and should be completed by January 18 at 2200Z.

RFC #551 – A WPC model evaluation script will be implemented. This script will compute forecast differences between the operational and parallel GFS models, which will then be displayed to forecasters for assistance in parallel evaluation. To be implemented beginning on January 6 at 1600Z and should be completed by January 13 at 2200Z.

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The following RFCs are in progress:

RFC #517 - For the 2016 Winter Weather Experiment, test and run CF scripts to compute wind probabilities using NDFD winds and 10-meter winds from SREF/GEFS, create hourly snowfall verification using RAP13 and WPC ptype algorithm, post process experimental fields from 3km NAMX and HRAM3.

Implementation began on December 7 at 1600Z and should be completed by 2200Z on December 28.

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The following NCO RFCs to be implemented the week of December 28, 2015 may affect WPC:

None

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The following NCO RFCs to be implemented the week of January 4, 2016 may affect WPC:

RFC #1607 – Multiple decoder updates – 1) for decod_dcamdr (AMDAR, ASDAR/ACARS decoder), include additional variables for BUFR ASDAR/ACARS data; 2) for decod_dcncld (NASA Langley cloud data decoder), exit gracefully if the gzip decompression of a file fails; 3) for decod_dcltng (lightning decoder), treat all Vaisala bulletins as encrypted; 4) add new decoder decod_dcasev (SEVIRI ASR (all-sky radiance) from EUMETSAT) which will store data in BUFR tank b021/xx042 and is planned for future use in the GSI assimilation.  To be implemented on January 4 at 1500Z.

RFC #1611 – Blend v1.0.2 – Initial implementation of the National Blend of Models into the NCEP Production Job Suite.  NBM is a nationally consistent and skillful suite of calibrated forecast guidance based on a blend of both NWS and non-NWS numerical weather prediction model data and post-processed model guidance.  For specifics on the NBM, see the TIN located at http://www.nws.noaa.gov/os/notification/tin10-50naefs_aad.htm .  (Note that the TIN URL says 'naefs' but this is in fact the TIN for the NBM).  This implementation also includes minor updates to the Precipitation Analysis, NAM, SREF, and NAEFS models and larger updates to the GFS_MOS, EKDMOS, and RTMA/URMA.  For the latter three, see the TINs located at http://www.nws.noaa.gov/os/notification/tin15-52gmos_mesonetfix_aaa.htm , http://www.nws.noaa.gov/os/notification/tin15-51ekdmos_aaa.htm , and http://www.nws.noaa.gov/os/notification/tin15-53rtma_urma_aaa.htm .

All changes are to be implemented on January 6 at 1500Z.

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The following NCO RFCs are in progress and may affect WPC:

RFC #1522 – MRMS v10.5.1 - Update MRMS to version 10.5.1, to begin production of the RIDGE2 (Radar Integrated Display with Geospatial Elements

version 2) products operationally.  Implementation began on November 30 at 1300Z and should be completed by December 28.

RFC #1579 – GPFS v4.1 (on Gyre) - Enhance the existing WCOSS - Gyre phase-1 and phase-2 storage solution by adding metadata-only GPFS NSD servers and changing the existing data-and-metadata NSD to data-only servers. Existing data will be "restriped" to separate the data and metadata.  To be implemented beginning December 17 at 1200Z and should be completed by January 11.  NCO/IDSB will send notification to users via the WCOSS-announce mailing list  should planned work be impactful to users.

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Please note that security-related RFCs are never listed in the RFC memo.

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---- OPERATIONAL ANNOUNCEMENTS ----

The CPC/OPC/WPC Configuration Management documents are available  at https://sites.google.com/a/noaa.gov/nws-ncep-nco-cm/.

Please review these documents if you have questions prior to submitting changes for CPC/OPC/WPC configurable items.